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February 8, 1963

Dear John:

As we move further along the road in the development of arms control-disarmament policy, it has become more and more apparent that sound intelligence should be the foundation for the specific arms control-disarmament proposals the United States will in the future be making, including the kind of verification the United States would require.

In connection with this, I should like very much to have the opportunity of discussing with you at an early date ACDA's relationship to, and contacts with, CIA and the Intelligence Community. In particular, one of the matters I should like to talk to you about is the possibility of having a first-rate liaison officer assigned to ACDA by CIA on a full-time basis who would have as his responsibilities: (1) keeping ACDA informed of intelligence matters of interest to ACDA emanating from CIA; (2) keeping CIA currently informed on ACDA program developments; and (3) serving as the channel for laying ACDA intelligence requirements on CIA and the community as a whole. We appreciate the efforts of Mr. [ ] and Mr. [ ] on our behalf but are aware they have other responsibilities and hence are unable to give full time to ACDA problems.

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There are several other matters which I should like to discuss with you to insure that ACDA has the best possible intelligence input for the future.

[ ] We certainly might hope that we are entering a stage where our country should have included among its future plans the most carefully worked out proposals in the arms control field. The role of intelligence in working out such proposals and in properly backstopping serious negotiations in this field can hardly be overemphasized.

This leads

The Honorable

John A. McCone, Director, CIA

Director,

Central Intelligence Agency.

US Arms Control

Disarmament Agency

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-2-

This leads me to wonder whether the time has not come whereby a special group should be activated within your agency to work on disarmament matters. This might take the form of an agency-wide group serving under an assistant of yours who would work full-time on disarmament matters. Eventually, one can envisage that at the appropriate time a USIB committee or operation (like NIC or perhaps like JAEIC) might be formed concerning itself solely with arms control-disarmament matters. I should also like, as a more immediate measure, to obtain your views as to whether selected individuals of this agency might participate, of course without vote, in working committees of JAEIC and GMAIC. I recognize that certain precedents would be involved by making ACDA a full member of all USIB committees, but I believe it would be advantageous to have informal arrangements with these particular committees.

It would be greatly appreciated if you might let me know when it would be convenient to have such a discussion with you. It is my understanding that Mr. Matteson from our Agency has already had some preliminary conversations with your people on these subjects.

Sincerely,

William C. Foster  
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